

2012 Capitol Holiday Ornament Now on Sale

Past Years Are Still Available

The Friends of the Capitol, Inc. and Michigan Capitol Committee are pleased to announce the release of this year's Capitol Holiday Ornament. This ornament is the tenth in a series launched in 2003; unfortunately, the 2003 ornament is no longer available. Collectors looking for Michigan keepsakes and those seeking a unique gift for friends and family turn to these little treasures. Beginning with the 2004 edition, the ornaments are available in the Capitol Facilities Office. Funds raised through the sale of holiday ornaments and other memorabilia are used to benefit the preservation of the Capitol.



This year's ornament: The Inner Dome

This year's official 2012 Michigan Capitol Ornament, sponsored by the Friends of the Capitol and the Michigan Capitol Committee, marks a momentous occasion. This is the tenth ornament in the annual series of Limited Edition ornaments commemorating Michigan's beautifully restored State Capitol, a historic landmark originally dedicated in 1879. Beginning with the first such ornament commissioned in 2003, these highly popular annual ornaments have become treasured collectors' items, featuring various aspects of the Capitol's architecture and history each year. This year also marks the 20th Anniversary of the Michigan Capitol's Restoration.

Today visitors to the Michigan State Capitol continue to be inspired by the beauty and symbolism found in the Capitol's inner dome, much as they were when the building opened in 1879.

At first glance, the visitor's eye is drawn to the stars in the oculus with its rich blue background and bright contrasting gold and silver stars. The stars represent Michigan's future and potential--as bright and vast as the universe itself. Beneath the stars colorful bands of coffered panels, cornices and pilasters showcase beautiful Victorian decorative paint motifs in lovely golds, blues, terra cottas and pinks. Eight classically styled allegorical figures are found near the bottom of the inner dome, each framed by elegant pilasters. Painted by Italian artist Tommaso Juglaris, the allegories represent eight institutions important to Michigan both yesterday and today. The allegories, or muses, represent education, the fine arts, agriculture, law, the sciences, justice, industry, and trade and commerce.

Today, after 133 years, the beauty of Michigan's Capitol dome continues to inspire thousands of visitors, both young and old, to dream about the future of our state.